

Saint Louis Audubon *Bulletin*

Volume 41, Number 8

Winter, 1976

EAGLES, EAGLES, EAGLES

Again the St. Louis Audubon Society has been asked to participate in the Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Count. This will be the 9th time the Society has taken part.

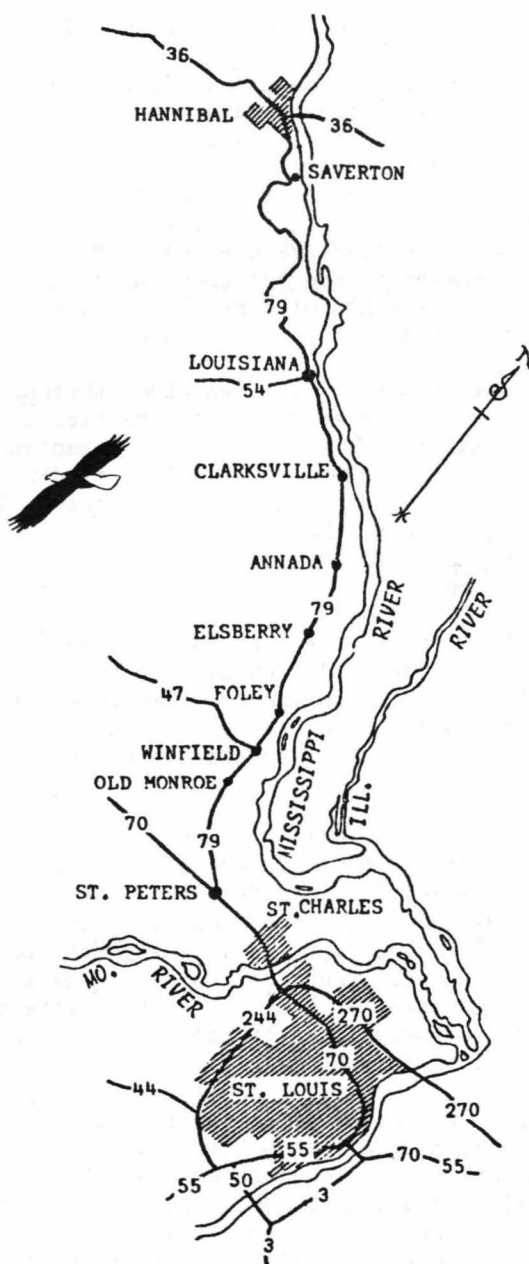
The date is Saturday, February the 14th, and the assigned area is from Winfield Dam, north to Saverton.

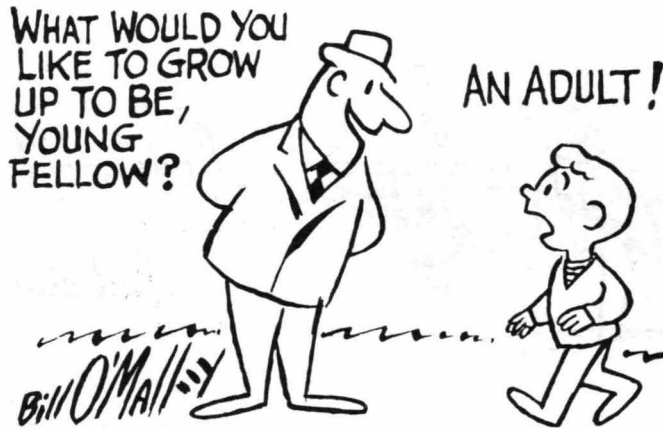
This is your great opportunity to see the majestic Bald Eagles and participate in an important count. You will have the able leadership of McCune Dudley and Gus Artus of Louisiana, expert birders Dick Anderson and Paul Bauer and members of the photography group. Leaders will map the area and different groups will cover specified areas.

Meet at the plant of "Kamp Togs" in Clarksville, Missouri at 8:00 a.m. Clarksville is 1½ hours drive from the Clayton Court House. It is reached by following Interstate 70 to St. Peters. Then north on Route 79 to Clarksville. "Kamp Togs" is on the left-hand side entering Clarksville from the south. A warm welcome will await you.

COME ONE....COME ALL

For further information call 868-2009, 921-3972 or 965-8642.





W H Y W O R R Y ?

Edgar Denison - Conservation Chairman

Our lakes and rivers are polluted, poisons by the thousands of tons are spewed into the air, pesticides kill indiscriminately and then find their way into the watercourses, land is being devastated by promoters, "developers", highway systems, car dumps, land fills - you name it ... wildlife is being destroyed to increase grazing area, forests are eliminated by defoliants - 1,500,000 acres in Missouri alone during the last decade, ozone may be destroyed by spraycan vehicles, cancer-causing chemicals are introduced into foods this could go on indefinitely, listing Man's destructiveness and short-sighted approach, which is solely guided by GREED! One man's answer to the cancer-causing chemical problem was, "Let them use them, let people die of cancer. I do not care. To this a young mother answered, "I do care. I do not want my children to have to die of cancer."

All of us must make up our own minds whether we want to play ostrich or if we really CARE. We human beings are endowed with the faculty of enjoying and appreciating the beauty of our spaceship Earth. We also do have a conscience - regardless how atrophied it may be - and we have the ability to reason, to plan, to differentiate between right and wrong, and to act in a responsible way. If we use these remarkable qualities, there can be no question that it is our job to clean up the mess we have made and stop creating ever more situations which will degrade nature. The kind of people who are members of Audubon are a priori aware of our natural surroundings and CARE about the future. But what can we DO? How can we HELP?

We live in a republic - a representative form of government. We elect representatives - hopefully of our ideas and ideals. So, we have the duty of informing ourselves about the attitudes of candidates toward our fragile and abused world. There are organizations which submit questions to these candidates. We Audubon members can do likewise and be guided by the answers. But once our representatives have been elected, we must keep them informed about our views.

In our complicated world, we cannot anticipate all the dozens and even hundreds of problems which come up during legislative sessions. When our national government was created, the capital was removed into the "sticks" - away from existing cities - in order to avoid pressure on the law-makers from the crowds. Today, however, those law-makers cannot function properly without our advice ... by mail, telephone, telegraph or personal contact. Letters are read and usually answered. Such letters should be short, polite, to the point, addressed correctly and NEVER menacing or abusive. A few letters have often swayed a law-maker, especially if the reasoning is logical and to the point. Your representatives, both in Jefferson City and in Washington, WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

This brings us to the final consideration. The impact of your message depends on your knowledge of the subject you write about. TRY TO BE INFORMED. Your St. Louis Chapter of the Audubon Society has inaugurated a special mailing service to inform you about vital issues which call for action by YOU. None of us thinks he has time to sit down and write a letter .. but is there anything more important in our lives than to save our country and this earth? Hardly! There ARE priorities in this world. The choice is yours.

In another article I shall name some sources of information on environmental issues which you may want to acquire.

Focus on the



Environment



BETTY WILSON

WELDON SPRINGS UPDATE

Important gubernatorial candidates (Bond and Cason) have said that Weldon Spring's 8000 acres should remain in public ownership. This land is an 8000-acre tract acquired by the University of Missouri as surplus land from the U. S. government after World War II. The land was acquired at no cost on the condition it would be used for educational purposes for 25 years.

That time having expired, the university has hired a consulting firm to advise them on what the best use of the land might be with the idea of producing some income from the property. The firm is Hellmuth, Obata and Kassebaum, Inc., who will make suggestions for ways to make the acreage profitable. Some of the ideas they will examine are:

2000 acres for country club type convention such as Ogelvie Park in West Virginia;

New town concept for residents and industry;

Regulated light industry, living farms, etc.;

Residential development.

The basic problem is that the University of Missouri needs money primarily for their endowment fund. They would like to find a plan which would provide one million dollars per year for the fund.

Three agencies are in the beginning stages of making plans for the use of the 8000 acres. They are:

Missouri department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation;

Missouri Department of Conservation;

St. Louis Zoo.

Their biggest problem is to find the funding.

In the 1975 session of the legislature Senator Joseph Frappier introduced legislation which would repeal Section 172.010, RSMo. 1069 and enact one new section. His proposal would remove from the University of Missouri Board of Curators the power to sell or convey any portion of any parcels of land containing in excess of 5000 acres (i.e. the Weldon Spring Tract). This legislation was reported out of the Senate Committee, Do Pass, unanimously but the legislation was not considered on the floor. Later, Senator Frappier drafted a Resolution calling calling on the Board of Curators to seek the advice of the Legislature before selling a large tract of land. This Resolution was signed by 32 of the 34 Senators. The Resolution was not considered by the Senate because Senator Frappier thought that the large number of signatures adequately demonstrated the sentiments of the State Senate. A copy was sent to the Board of Curators.

The Weldon Spring type acreage is very rare. Experts point out that it is a large, varied tract and located near a metropolitan area. It could provide for many public uses, with emphasis on open space. It is estimated that the land, as it stands today, would be sold for 8 or 9 million dollars. If it is improved property, it could bring 25 million.

The citizen must consider alternatives that would provide money for the University of Missouri and keep the land in public ownership. Some suggestions follow:

1. The University of Missouri could retain ownership and lease the acreage to one or more agencies such as the St. Louis Zoo, Conservation Department or Missouri Park Department.
2. A federal, state or regional agency could buy the land.
3. If the 1/8 of 1% sales/use tax constitutional amendment for the Conservation Department passes, the Conservation Department might buy the land for conservation and outdoor recreational purposes.
4. A private organization such as the Nature Conservancy might buy the land for preservation and public use.

RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

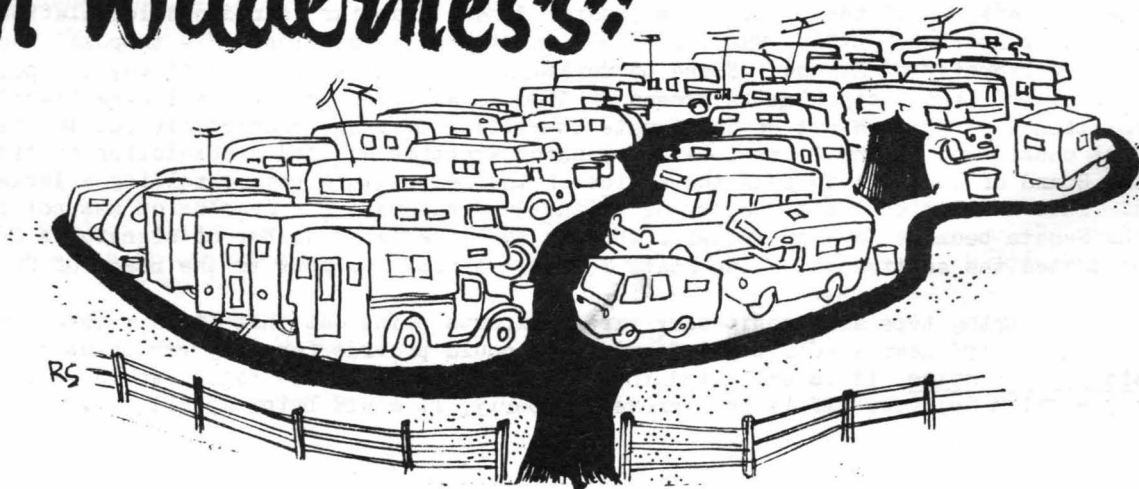
Federal Legislation

S 2062 is strong federal legislation providing for a non-returnable beverage container prohibition act. This would attempt to control one of the major ingredients of the solid waste stream. Strong federal action has been delayed by intensive industry lobbying and congressional bickering. This has resulted in a number of states or localities (e.g. Oregon and Bowie, Maryland) passing their own measures designed to discourage excessive use of throw-away containers. The principal issue has been the non-returnable beverage container, which frequently constitutes 60 or 70% (by weight) of the litter collected along the highway. The Oregon bill has been challenged, but the Oregon Supreme Court has refused to review it. Thus the bill stands and is proving highly effective in controlling litter.

State Legislation

Returnable Containers (Goode). Would require that returnable bottles, having refund values of either 2 or 5 cents be used for beer, soft drinks and certain other beverages. Would permit the director of liquor control to certify containers that could be reused by more than one manufacturer, as a way of encouraging the use and return of reusable containers. Representative Wayne Goode introduced this in the last session of the Missouri Legislature and will reintroduce it in the next session. The Audubon Society supports returnable beverage container legislation. LET YOUR LEGISLATOR KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Ah Wilderness!





environment besieged

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A Short Summary of Current Events

Edgar Denison



PRICE - ANDERSON NUCLEAR INSURANCE ACT

An extension of the act is in the works in the House of Representatives (H.R. 8631). At present, utilities who own nuclear plants are required to carry only \$560 million in insurance. A serious accident would probably cost billions. Representative Bingham (D - New York) has offered an amendment, to abolish this limitation. Write to your representative and urge him to support this amendment.

STRIP MINE LEGISLATION

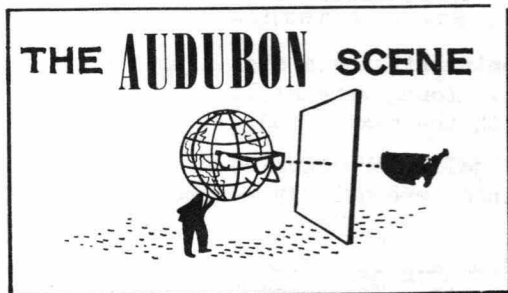
An effort to revive needed legislation to control strip-mining has been defeated by ONE vote in the House Interior Committee.

FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Under the present rules, municipalities in flood plains MUST fulfill certain requirements of safety and land use provisions to become eligible for grants and insurance. This wise law is now being attacked by a few Senators under the leadership of Missouri's Thomas Eagleton, who calls the provisions a "land-use law". Write to him and tell him that you are against his ideas, and that unregulated development of flood plains is unsound ecologically and wasteful of the taxpayer's money. Write also to Senator Stuart Symington and ask him to work against any change in the existing law.

MIREX FIREANT PROGRAM

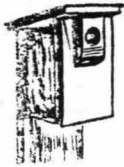
The Department of Agriculture has decided to renew an abandoned program in the fight against the South American ants. There is strong evidence that Mirex is a potent cause of cancer, although the Allied Chemical Company, the manufacturer, has refused to release pertinent information. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has forced the Department of Agriculture to use restrictions in the aerial spraying of the chemical, which the Department of Agriculture claims made the fight impossible. How the Agriculture Department expects to change its application techniques has not been told. Audubon is a party to the ongoing hearings.



A NEW SERVICE TO KEEP LEADERS INFORMED OF ACTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Audubon Society has requested the names of people who CARE about conservation. We are developing a list of individuals who are interested and willing to respond to letters themselves, contact other members of our Society when the need for support arises and have more than a passive interest. A considerable amount of timely information will be sent to these "legislative alert contacts". If any of the persons have a special interest in a particular topic, it should be indicated. For example, predator control reform, pesticides, stream preservation--public works water projects, the proposed tallgrass prairie national park, etc.

Please send your name, address and telephone number to Edgar Denison (telephone 821-9971, and please call before 7:30 p.m.). We are a big Chapter of National Audubon and should do our part



1975 EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX STUDY

Burrell and Ruby Pickering

The results of this eighth year of study of the Bluebird Nesting Box Trails at Sunny Ranch in Warren County as made by members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society showed a slight drop in the number of young added to the friendly family of American thrushes, 272 as against 278 last year. This can be explained in part because several neighbors have erected boxes making more sites available.

Detailed information was recorded for each of the 60 boxes as to occupancy, kind of bird, number of eggs, number fledged, behavior patterns and any unusual observations. House sparrows continued to be a plague with nesting boxes near buildings causing the trouble. The nests and eggs were removed weekly; so no young sparrows were added to the population. Predators were a problem with 45 eggs and 17 young disappearing from the nests. The metal posts were greased and the wooden posts had a band of metal around them, which made it highly improbable that raccoons could have been the culprits. We have seen black snakes around and they may have been responsible.

Some interesting observations made by the weekly checkers follow:

NEST BUILDING usually required five or six days, but during the height of the breeding season, the box might be empty one weekend and the next have a nest and several eggs in it. Both male and female helped in nest building, with the female usually doing most of the work. The nests were built almost entirely of dried grasses and weed stems with the lining of fine grasses - loose, poorly built structures, but in the snug cavities of the boxes, expert workmanship is not required.

EGG LAYING started at once after the nest was completed, with usually four or five pale blue ovate eggs.

INCUBATION started as soon as the last egg was laid and required about 14 days.

YOUNG grew rapidly and were fully feathered and ready to leave the nest in 15 to 18 days. They were able to fly a short distance to some branch on the first try and none were found on the ground.

FEEDING was done by both parents bringing a diet almost exclusively of insects every few minutes from dawn to dusk. Young were still fed after leaving the nest by the male while the female continued with the next brood.

HOUSEKEEPING was excellent. Shells were carried some distance away as soon as the young were hatched and droppings were quickly removed.

FOOD HABITS: These make the bluebird one of our most useful birds. It does little harm to human interests, feeding almost entirely on insects, thereby destroying large numbers of some of the worst pests. The vegetable portion of their diet is largely fleshy fruit, mostly wild.

That the boxes can be opened and inspected without unduly disturbing the birds is one of the big surprises to those who do not know their friendliness and patience. Usually when a box is approached, the adult bird will leave and wait quietly on a nearby limb until the observer leaves. Only rarely will the female stay on the nest and refuse to leave.

Some may wonder why there is a need for bluebird nesting boxes. This can be explained by the fact that bluebirds nest only in cavities, either natural or man-made. Formerly the sites used were old woodpecker holes and other natural cavities in dead trees or wooden fence posts. Under today's farming practices, dead trees are usually removed and fence posts are metal. Adequate natural nesting sites have declined in number and with them the bluebird population.

If you are in an open area, put up boxes for the friendly bluebirds. You will enjoy having them around all year, marvel that they carry the deep blue sky on their backs and agree that they have been rightly chosen as the official bird of Missouri.

SUMMARY OF 1975 BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX STUDY AT SUNNY RANCH

EGGS: Total laid	369	YOUNG: Died in nest	15
Infertile or deserted	20	Lost to predators	17
Disappeared from nest	45	Fledged	272
Young hatched	304	(74% of eggs laid; 89% of	
Percentage	82%	young hatched)	

BLUEBIRD YEARLY COMPARISON DATA

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Boxes available	40	58	60	60	60	60
Boxes used	28	36	50	45	42	40
Total nests	46	55	87	89	83	77
Eggs laid	212	248	393	387	386	369
Eggs per nest	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.8
Young fledged	137	195	299	289	278	272
Percentage success	65%	79%	76%	75%	72%	74%
Average per nest	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4



THE GREAT BALD EAGLE IS FLYING HIGH AGAIN

The American bald eagle, once on the brink of extinction, is gliding back just in time for the nation's 200th birthday.

The tallies of new-born eaglets, rounded up from eagle watchers across the U. S., show an improving future for the bald-eagle population—now estimated to be several thousand in the contiguous 48 states and more than 50,000 in Alaska.

Along the Mississippi River, eagle specialist Elton Fawkes, who has gathered information from the annual eagle counts (including the St. Louis Audubon count) reports a jump in the number of immature eagles turning to the river's winter fishing grounds.

Neglected for a long time, the great screaming creature of the American skies is outracing extinction under the auspices of man and computers. The bald eagle, however, is far from its original numbers of 100,000 and being a common sight in every state, which was the case in 1782 when the Continental Congress designated it the national bird—over the protests of Benjamin Franklin, who wanted the wild turkey.

This national symbol of freedom and triumph is being provided its own lands, by conservations (thank you Mr. Busch) and the U. S. Government. Since 1972 more than 4,000 acres with high concentrations of eagle nests and roosts have been bought in the upper Midwest and set aside as eagle preserves.

A three-year ban on the dangerous pesticide DDT and a one-year ban on dieldrin, also are given credit for the bald eagle recovery — although residues still linger in some shells. Eagle breeding had stopped on the shores of the Great Lakes, but some reproduction along Lake Erie is now being seen.

Although eagles still fall prey to pesticides, hunters and developers, new protections are afforded them as never before. Thanks to conservation efforts, the bird will be flying free for the tricentennial.

One place the bald eagle has not survived is the 1976 U. S. quarter which it has adorned so long. But it can still be found on dollar bills, and even Frisbees.

SECOND
ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES -----	March 1, 1976
ENTRIES WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED -----	WHEN RECEIVED
ALL ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED -----	May 15, 1976
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND EXHIBITION OF WINNING ENTRIES -	
AUDITORIUM, HEADQUARTERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY,	
1640 SOUTH LINDBERGH BOULEVARD -- 8:00 p.m. -----	June 1, 1976

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The Second St. Louis Audubon Society Nature Photography Exhibition is open to ALL St. Louis Audubon Society members.
2. Entry fee is Two Dollars Fifty-Cents (\$2.50) per person, one entry per person, and each entrant may submit up to ten (10) COLOR SLIDES. Slides MUST be the work of the entrant. Make check or money order payable to ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY. PLEASE NOTE: Entries will neither be judged nor returned if not accompanied by entry fee AND a self-addressed label and postage for the return of the slides submitted. Be sure to package your slides with sufficient protection for transportation both ways.
3. Slides 2" x 2" ONLY may be submitted. Glass mounts are optional. CARDBOARD MOUNTS BETWEEN GLASS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. Each slide MUST be clearly marked with a title, name and address of maker, and NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH THE NUMBER ON THE ENTRY FORM. Spot slides in lower left-hand corner as hand viewed.
4. Subject matter of slides is restricted to NATURE in all its forms. Photographs which depict cultivated plants, domesticated animals, still life studies, obviously-set flower arrangements, mounted specimens, museum habitats or groups, or similar subjects which are no longer alive are ineligible and should not be submitted. SUBJECT MATTER MUST BE CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED EITHER IN THE TITLE OR IN THE SPACE PROVIDED FOR SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION ON THE ENTRY FORM.
5. The St. Louis Audubon Society has the right to reproduce and/or duplicate all entries in the competition for use in its education and conservation efforts. The Nature Photography Section will produce a slide illustrated nature lecture from the winning entries. This slide show, complete with commentary, will be used to fill requests from schools, organizations, clubs, etc., for Audubon programs. The winning slides will be duplicated for that purpose at the cost of the Society, and winners will have their original slides returned to them.
6. All possible care will be exercised in the handling and displaying of all entries, but the St. Louis Audubon Society and any cooperating agencies will not be responsible for loss or damage in transit or during the exhibition.
7. AWARD CERTIFICATES WILL BE GIVEN ALL ENTRANTS WHO HAVE SLIDES ACCEPTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE SLIDE ILLUSTRATED NATURE LECTURE TO BE PRODUCED BY THE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION OF THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY. THESE ENTRANTS WILL BE PUBLICIZED IN THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS.

THE TOP FIVE EXHIBITORS SELECTED BY THE JUDGES (AND THE JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL) WILL EACH BE AWARDED ONE 8 INCH BY 10 INCH COLOR PRINT AND INTERNEGATIVE OF A SLIDE OF THE EXHIBITOR'S CHOICE.

ENTRY FORM

Your name: (print) _____

Number of slides enclosed? _____

Address: _____

Entry fee enclosed? _____

_____ Zip: _____

Please make check or money order
payable to St. Louis Audubon Soc.
Entry Fee: \$2.50.

Telephone number: _____

Self-addressed label and
postage for return of
slides enclosed? _____

TITLE OF SLIDE _____	SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION _____	THIS COLUMN FOR USE OF JUDGES _____
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Please be sure your slides are carefully packaged. Send your entry to:

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON PHOTO CONTEST
8410 MADELINE DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63114

KEEP THIS PORTION OF THE FORM FOR YOUR RECORD.

Entry mailed: _____

Number of slides in entry: _____

Acknowledgment card received: _____

Entry returned: _____

Other notations: _____

AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS
ON
ST. LOUIS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Slide/Tape Programs

- (1) "The Meramec Dam" (25 min) 1973

A Sierra Club analysis of the justification given by the Corps of Engineers for the Meramec Dam Project. Some parts are technical; considers environmental and economic aspects.

- (2) "Forest Park: A Case Study in Land Use" (20 min) 1974

A discussion of the history and present situation of Forest Park. Includes a large map and questionnaire. (Also available from the Education Department of the St. Louis Art Museum)

- (3) "Wilderness in Missouri" (15 min) 1975

A discussion of eight areas in southern Missouri which are being considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

- (4) "The Upper Mississippi River: A Threatened Resource" (29 min) 1975

Presentation of background to the lawsuit against the proposed replacement of Lock and Dam 26; environmental and economic issues.

- (5) "The Lower Meramec River" (15 min) 1975

A discussion of the proposed Lower Meramec Recreation Area. (Also available from the Open Space Council)

- (6) "Bikeways for St. Louis" (17 min) 1975

A discussion of present and proposed bikeways in St. Louis area. (Also available from the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council)

- (7) "Pathways to Adventure: Hiking Trails for St. Louis" (14 min) 1975

Discussion of trail needs and proposals such as Gateway Discovery Trail.

- (8) "Energy: Here Comes the Sun" (13 min) 1975

A general discussion of energy in St. Louis area. Stress is on energy conservation and solar energy. (Also available from the Utility Consumers Council of Missouri)

- (9) "Adventure Education" (12 min) 1975

A documentary program on an "Outward Bound" type class for teachers at Webster College School. (Also available from the Webster College School)

Video-Tape (1/2")

- (1) "Forest Park: A Legacy for the People" (25 min) 1975

A discussion of uses and threats to Forest Park with proposals for master planning for the Park.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE COALITION

The Coalition for the Environment now has a library of A-V materials on local environmental issues produced by the St. Louis Environmental Media Center, the Sierra Club, and other groups. These materials can be checked out for use by schools and community groups. Included are nine synchronized slide/tape programs and one video tape. The slide programs are really a package of materials: included are slides in a carousel tray, a cassette tape, a script, and various background reading materials.

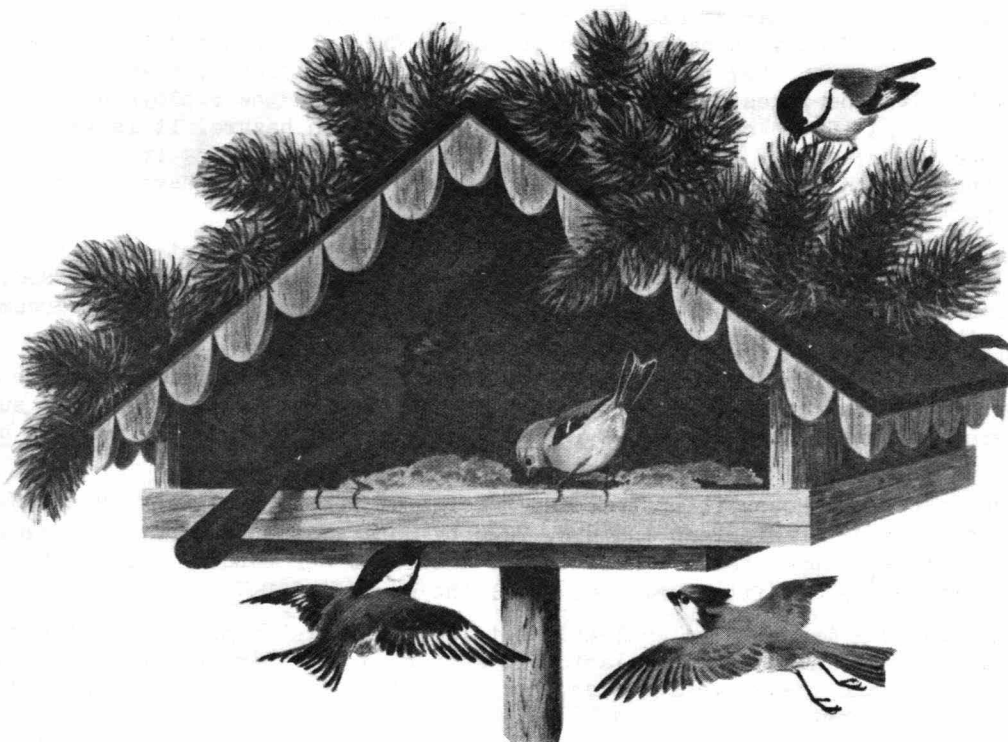
The programs can be shown automatically if your tape recorder is equipped with a slide synchronization feature (tapes are 2 track, with 1,000 Hz signal pulse on the second track). If you do not have such a tape recorder, the programs can be shown manually with any cassette recorder by using the script to cue the slide changes. Thus all you need to show the programs are a carousel projector and a cassette recorder. However, be sure that you have a speaker large enough for the size of audience (most portable cassette recorders do not have a large enough speaker and you need to add an external speaker).

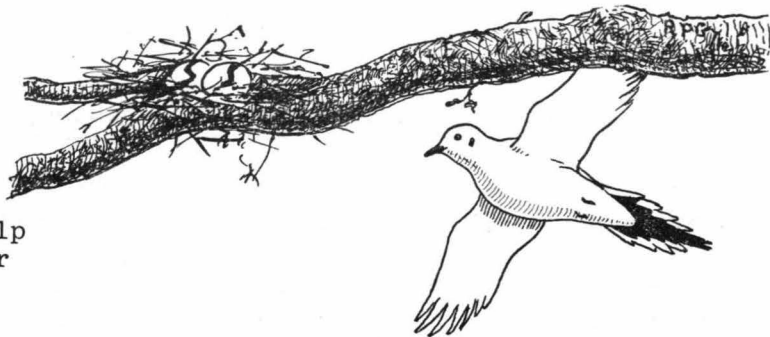
Most of these programs are also available through the Speaker's Bureau by calling 757-0600. These speakers are members of our various committees and will add further information to the presentation and conduct a question-and-answer session.

We request a nominal honorarium (\$10.00) for each speaker. And if the Coalition must furnish equipment with the speaker, we charge a fee of \$5.00 for the projector and \$5.00 for the recorder.

Workshops are also available for teachers and community leaders concerning the content of the programs and procedures for their use. Each workshop considers a single issue and it lasts about two hours. It allows each participant to become familiar with the background of each issue and to practice the procedures for using the materials.

These workshops are free but we request a minimum group size of five persons (maximum group size is 25 persons). Schools and school districts may be particularly interested in scheduling workshops for groups of their teachers. For information on the workshops call David Bedan at 968-3568 or 461-7724.





The Audubon Society Asks Your Help
In the Fight Against Cancer

Hardly a week goes by without alarming new evidence coming to light of the hazards of toxic substances such as PCBs, vinyl chloride, mercury and the many substances used in industrial processes.

Scientific studies have demonstrated that many chemicals in widespread use are carcinogenic (cancer-causing), yet there is no federal law to test and control the use of these substances.

Today, 130 years after the observation of scrotal cancer in copper smelters exposed to inorganic arsenic, 1,500,000 workers in the United States are inhaling the very same substances and many industrial groups exposed to inorganic arsenic are known to be dying of lung and lymphatic cancers at two to eight times the national average. In addition to workers, persons who live near chemical and other plants have abnormally incidence of some types of cancer.

In 1971, the Council on Environmental Quality issued a report on toxic substances which pointed out that there are about two million known chemical compounds. Thousands of new chemicals are discovered each year. Of these, several hundred go into commercial production, yet only limited testing is done before they are marketed to determine their potential hazards.

Dr. Umberto Saffioti, associate director for carcinogenesis at the National Cancer Institute, estimates that of the known two million chemicals, no more than 6000 have been tested to determine whether they cause cancer. Of those, he believes, only half have been tested adequately. About 1000 have shown some sign of being carcinogenic.

A good example is PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a class of chemicals used for 40 years in electrical machinery, and in some plastics, petroleum products and carbonless "carbon paper". Laboratory tests have shown that PCBs cause malignant liver tumors in laboratory animals. They also contaminate environment, including some drinking water, and impair the ability of fish to reproduce and cause eggshell thinning in certain birds. Like some pesticides, PCBs persist for many years in the environment and move up the food chain, and wind up in human fatty tissue.

Yet, despite the mounting evidence of hazards to man and the environment, no federal agency has general authority to control hazardous substances at their source - where they are manufactured. There are laws to regulate pesticides, food additives and atomic wastes, but no statute which requires pre-market testing of industrial chemicals and controls their use.

Dr. Russell Peterson, chairman of CEQ and himself a chemist, pointed out the inadequacy of present law and said, "Today we cannot prohibit production of a new chemical because its health hazards are not yet proven. By the time the health hazard is proven, however, production of the chemical may involve the investment of millions of dollars and the employment of thousands of people. So, when and if the chemical becomes a proven health hazard, it is very expensive to prohibit. More important, by that time many citizens may be suffering from cancer or other long-term effects which - had the chemical been tested - might never have occurred." CEQ strongly supports passage of toxic substances legislation.

The Congress began considering toxic substance legislation in 1971, but because of heavy opposition from the chemical industry a toxic substances act has still not been passed. The house and Senate each passed bills in 1973, but the conferees were unable to reach agreement and the bill died at the end of the last Congress.

Once again this year the Congress is working on Toxic Substances legislation. The Senate Commerce Committee has been considering S. 776, which although not as strong as its supporters hoped is a step in the right direction. The bill may reach the Senate before the end of this year.

Two bills are before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee - H.R. 7548 introduced by Congressman Brodhead of Michigan and H.R. 7220 by Congressman Eckhardt of Texas. H.R. 7548 is stronger and more comprehensive. However, because of other pending legislation, it is not expected that the House Committee will act until the spring of 1976.

Meanwhile the chemical industry relentlessly battles the legislation, particularly objecting to pre-market testing. Although legislation is supported by labor, environmentalists, health and consumer groups and the Administration, pressure from the industry to water down or defeat the bills is intense.

Proponents of strong legislation feel that it should include the following basic elements:

1. Pre-market testing of chemicals is essential. There is absolutely no justification for allowing chemicals on the market that may prove to be hazardous after the damage is done. The Environmental Protection Agency should also gather data on existing chemicals to determine which of them are hazardous and should be removed from the market or severely restricted.
2. As with pesticides, EPA should have authority to regulate manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of hazardous or potentially harmful substances.
3. EPA should also have sufficient enforcement authority to seize products which violate the law and citizens should be allowed to bring suit to force EPA to enforce the law if it is failing to do so. In line with this, EPA should be empowered to issue strong penalties against violators. All too often, penalties for violations of regulatory acts have not been commensurate with the nature of the offense, but have been mere tokens. Thus stiff penalties are a must.
4. Manufacturers should not be allowed to conceal health and safety information under the guise of "trade secrets".

Ten years elapsed between the publication of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, and the passage of a fairly strong pesticide act. The problem of toxic substances is at least equal to that of pesticides - perhaps more critical to human health - and four years have passed since the introduction of the first toxic substances bill in 1971. As Dr. I. J. Selkoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine said, "To prevent cancer in the year 2000, we have to identify the problem chemicals in 1975." It is clear that we can delay no longer.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY APPEAL

We urge you to write to our Missouri SENATORS, and ask them for their full support of S. B. 776. Mention the 4 points made in the text, which are the basis for meaningful legislation

The Hon. Stuart Symington

U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510

The Hon. Thomas Eagleton

U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510

Saint Louis Audubon Society Conservation Committee

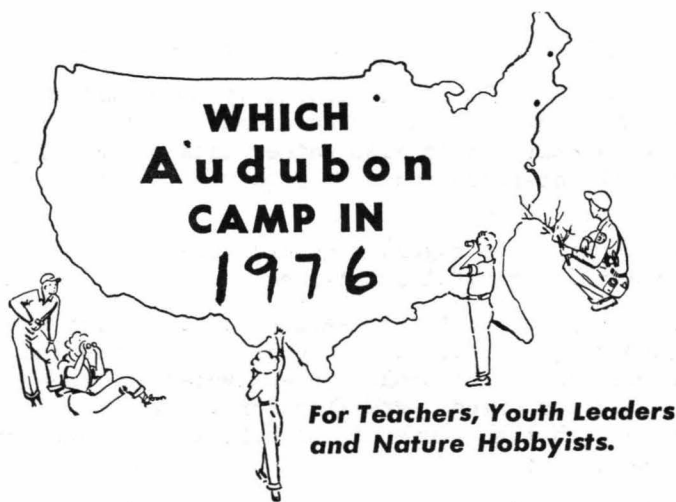


ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

A MAJOR SPORTING EVENT

"Though it may sound preposterous," comments Bartlett Hendricks in his column in the Pittsfield, Mass., Berkshire Eagle, "it is a fact that more outdoor people participate each year in a bird count than in the qualifying round for the U. S. Open Gold tournament or any other event in the wide, wide world of sports." Close to 30,000 persons took part in the National Audubon sponsored annual Christmas Count this season, (December 20 - January 4), covering 1165 areas from Alaska to Venezuela.

The Saint Louis Audubon Christmas Count was held on December 21 and 62 species were seen. The Great Rivers Audubon Society count was on December 20 and 78 species were seen, including an Indigo Bunting.



AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

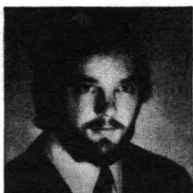
**For Teachers, Youth Leaders
and Nature Hobbyists.**

Each year the St. Louis Audubon Society awards several scholarships for attendance to Audubon Summer Camps. Through this effort our society helps promote conservation education. Many of the previous recipients have been teachers and have helped their students develop an appreciation of our wildlife heritage and a concern for the quality of our environment.

The National Audubon Camp operates four summer camps. The Maine camp specializes in the study of sea coast and marine life. The Connecticut camp emphasizes ecology and concerns itself with the diversity of living things, their interrelationships and adaptations. The Camp of the West in Wyoming provides first-hand experience with nature through an integrated sequence of daily field trips. The camp in Wisconsin offers a program of ecology and conservation in northern Wisconsin's beautiful lake country.

Four scholarships are available this year and will pay the cost of tuition. Recipients must provide their own transportation. The camps are open only to persons 18 years or older and therefore the scholarships also follow this policy.

Applications and camp brochures are available from Ed Ortleb, 5663 Pernod Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139, phone 351-0966. One letter of recommendation is required from each applicant. Deadline for return of applications is January 9, 1976. Selections will be made by a committee and announced by January 23rd.



**Friday
February 6, 1976**

**Steve Maslowski's
"Wildlife By Day And By Night"**

WILDLIFE FILM AT ETHICAL SOCIETY

The first of three wildlife films to be shown at the Ethical Society was seen by a large and enthusiastic audience. Come join us at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road on February 6 for the next film by Steve Maslowski, "Wildlife By Day and By Night".

The film which will be of special interest to you, chronicles through the seasons, the diurnal and nocturnal activities of a wide variety of midwestern wildlife

The film starts at 8:15 p.m., and we would suggest an early arrival for a good seat. The program is free and open to the public so feel free to bring friends.

ST. LOUIS AREA BIRDING
August 1st to December 15th
J. Earl Comfort



Because of an excellent fall shorebird migration exciting birding was enjoyed during August. Local birders concentrated on the shorebirds and warblers, who did their share in adding interest by appearing in unusual garb - the shorebirds in winter plumage and many of the warblers in their confusing fall garb. Did we duck this challenge? Not if we were dedicated birding buffs, and most birders in our vicinity fit this description.

Cattle egrets were easy to locate. It seems hardly possible that this companion of cows and horses was so rare not so many years that it was a telephone line species. The cattle egret came to us on its own and is extending its range northward. Best of the herons were the snowy egret and yellow-crowned night heron.

The piping plover, ruddy turnstone, willet, buff-breasted sandpiper, sanderling and northern phalarope were the best shorebirds seen, while the best warbler was the Cape May. Among the hawks a Mississippi kite took first place. The bird of the month was the northern phalarope.

During September the shorebird migration continued, and the number of warbler arrivals was stepped up. There was also evidence of a good migration of other families. Rare shorebirds seen in September but not in August were the ruff and the knot.

The rarest member of the large finch family listed was the red crossbill. Best of the Hawks and their tribe was a pigeon hawk. In the rail family, which includes that "mud hen", the coot, an extremely rare black rail turned up. This black rail was the bird of the month.

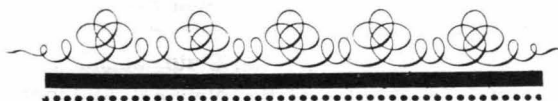
Migration also added interest to October birding, during which several rare species were seen. Shorebirds and warblers were on their way out, leaving only a few stragglers to represent their families. They were replaced by ducks and geese, which are always interesting. In contrast to other birds in their winter plumage in October, the ducks had taken on their gay breeding plumage. Most of the wood ducks, with their beautiful males, had headed south. As if to console us, the colorful male bufflehead and hooded merganser ducks had come to spend the winter with us. So had the snow and blue geese, the snows standing out in flight or at rest.

Rarest October birds not mentioned above were American bittern, common loon, white-fronted goose, American avocet, laughing gull, peregrine falcon, Virginia rail and sharp-tailed sparrow. There was an "epidemic" of hermit thrushes and an unusual number of red-breasted nuthatches and winter wrens in October, with many appearing in the yards of birders. The nuthatches took advantage of many area feeders, where sunflower seed attracted the tiny sprites. These little are usually quite rare during our winters. More than fifty European tree sparrows were sighted by one birding group on a visit to Creve Coeur. St. Louis is justifiably proud of its own European tree sparrow weaver finch, which is seldom found outside of our area. The bird of the month of October was the laughing gull.

Fantastic, fabulous and phenomenal are some of the words that best describe November area birding. The generally rather rare red-breasted nuthatches were seen in great numbers, some-50 or 60 in one pine grove. The unusually rare pine siskin during the last winter now appeared in flocks of hundreds. Rarest birds seen in November not mentioned earlier were horned grebe, Western grebe, white pelican, whistling swan, common scoter, Harlan's hawk, Bonaparte's gull, saw-whet owl, short-eared owl, Brewer's blackbird, white-winged crossbill, Lapland longspur,

and bunting. Bird of the month for November was the snow bunting, with the common scoter as runner-up.

On the 7th of December a rare white-winged scoter was listed, bringing our list of area ducks for 1975 up to 23 species. Fourteen wild turkeys were seen on the 11th of December. In all, as of December 5, 287 full species had been reported for 1975. Best bird of the period covered in this report was the snow bunting. November was by far the best birding month of the year.



The sudden death in December 1975 of James Comfort brings shock and grief to all Audubon members and conservations. Jim was a topnotch ornithologist, a fine research man and an excellent teacher.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Florence who was his partner in all endeavors, and his daughters, Anna and Mary.

BOOK AWARD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The National Audubon Society recently began offering a special gift for those members who bring in three new members. This gift is the book, AUDUBON ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN BIRDS, written by Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., and edited by Olin Sewall Pettigill, Jr. This complete single-volume guide is offered by the National Audubon Society's Service Department and may be purchased for \$12.95. It has 410 photographs (35 in color).

To receive this book free (and there is a limited supply) send three membership applications to the St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Chairman: Gary Giessow, 1266 Lay Road, St. Louis, Mo., 63124. He will forward them to the National Audubon Society and see that you receive your free gift.

For application blanks check your old Audubon magazines or use the application blank at the bottom of this page. Gift memberships count in total. Checks to cover the memberships must be included.



CORRECTION: In the last St. Louis Audubon Bulletin it was reported that the St. Louis Audubon Society won the first prize of \$1,000 for the greatest numerical increase in membership (93) in the West Central Region of the National Audubon Society.. The number in parenthesis should have been 293 instead of 93. We are sorry in reporting the error, but proud of the 293 that YOU sent in.



PRESIDENT

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4648 Maryland, 63108
361-4226

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965-8642

ASSISTANT EDITOR

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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961-0895

Application for Joint Membership

Audubon Society
Answering Service
771-2731

On receipt of renewal notice return punch card with your check to National Audubon in envelope provided.

PLEASE SEND COPY TO EDITOR
2109 Briargate Lane
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

Please check the membership you desire:

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 per year	Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 per year
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$18.00 per year	Donor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 per year
Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 per year	Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 per year
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 per year	Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00

Name

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Address

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CHAPTER: If a chapter of the National Audubon Society exists in your vicinity, you will be assigned to that chapter unless you indicate a different choice.

SPECIAL Chapter Choice #2602

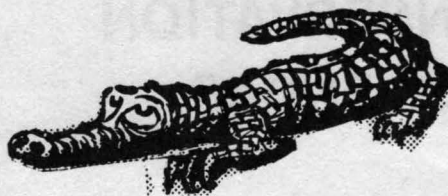
IMPORTANT: Please indicate if this is a
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Please make checks payable to: — National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022



CONSERVATION CALENDAR

January and February, 1976



January 3 and 4 Saturday & Sunday (and all succeeding Saturdays and Sundays) 10:00 A.M. to 12:00
Interpretative nature hikes at Lone Elk State Park. Hikers assemble at the Visitor Center.
Deer, elk and bison may be observed in their native habitat.

January 3 Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. St. Mary's, Mo. Christmas Bird Count. Contact
Tim Barksdale for details - 314-863-5654

January 4 Sunday 6:30 P.M. First of the KETC Series, "Our Vanishing Wilderness" Of Broc-
coli and Pelicans and Celery and Seals. Others to follow on succeeding Sunday nights at 6:30
are: The Prairie Killers, Prudhoe Bay - or Bust, Slow Death of the Desert Water, Will the Gator
Glades Survive?, Santa Barbara - Everybody's Mistake, The Water Is So Clear that a Blind Man
Could See, The Chain of Life.

January 6 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. 617 Marcel Drive, Manchester, Mo. Sierra Eastern Missouri Group's
Lower Meramec Committee Meeting. Chairman: Judy Woltjen 227-6398

January 6 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Coalition for the Environment Board of Directors Meeting,
University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar. Visitors welcome.

January 7 Wednesday 3 P.M. East-West Gateway Environmental Task Force Meeting, Room 2110,
720 Olive.

January 8 Thursday and all succeeding Thursdays WGNSS Birding. Call Rose Ann Bodman, 961-2583
or Helen Bowman, 531-1748 for meeting time and place.

January 9 Friday 9:30 A.M. League of Women Voters Environmental Quality Meeting. Call
Suzanne Pogell for details.

January 9 Friday 3:00 P.M. St. Louis County Air Pollution Appeals Board Meeting, Conference
Room, 8th Floor, 7900 Forsyth, Clayton.

January 9 Friday 8:00 P.M. WGNSS Indoor Nature Adventure - St. Louis County Library, Lind-
bergh Boulevard just south of Clayton Road. Botany experts Art Christ, Nell Menke, John
Molyneaux, Betty Nellums and Father Sullivan will present a slide program on "Orchids & Lilies"

January 10 Saturday 8:00 A.M. WGNSS Ornithology Field Trip to Busch Wildlife Area. Meet
at old shop lake. Bring lunch.

January 10 and 11 Saturday and Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Ozark Chapter Sierra Club
Executive Committee and Conservation Committee Meetings, Laumeier Park. Contact Roger Pryor
for further details. 361-3696

January 12 Monday 7:30 P.M. Piassa Palisades Group, Sierra Club Meeting, First Presbyterian
Church, 4th and Alby, Alton, Illinois.

January 13 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Eastern Missouri Group, Sierra Club, Executive Meeting, Uni-
versity City Library, 6701 Delmar. All Sierrans welcome.

January 13 Tuesday 8:00 P.M. Sierra Club Energy Resources Committee Meeting, 8708 Sturdy
Drive. Chairman: Marilyn Harlan, 966-8797.

January 16, 17 & 18 Friday, Saturday & Sunday Week-end Birding in Chicago led by Chicago
birding experts. For information call Phoebe Snetsinger, 968-3442, or Claudia Spener, 997-2035
Date tentative.

January 17 Saturday Sierra Club Easy Hike at Rockwoods. Call Hand or Ida Holland, 849-1515

January 17 & 18 Saturday & Sunday Midwest Regional Conservation Committee Meeting, Cincin-
nati, Ohio. For details call Dick Kutta, 993-3045

January 20 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Upper Meramec Committee Meeting 512 Clark Ave. 63119.
Chairman: Lou Centofanti, 961-6134

January 24 Saturday Sierra Club one day hike at Hawn State Park. Details: Leo Kluesner 991-2687

January 24 & 25 Saturday & Sunday Sierra Club two-day float on Meramec. Leader: Jack Palmer
391-0331(home) or 391-2725(work)

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

January 24 Saturday 8:00 A.M. WGNSS Ornithology Field Trip. Destination Swan Lake, Pere Marquette area. Meet at Alton Dam parking lot. Bring lunch.

January 27 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Sierra Club Eastern Missouri Group General Meeting, St. Louis County Library, Lindbergh Boulevard just south of Clayton Road. The initiative petition for increased funding of the Missouri Conservation Commission will be discussed.

January 27 Tuesday 10:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. WGNSS Lower Plants Group Meetings at the home of Lillian Nagel at 5616 Oleatha.

January 31 & February 1 Sierra Club two-day backpack in the Shawnee National Forest. Leader: Roy Hengerson, 694-6272(work phone)

February 3 Tuesday 7:45 P.M. St. Louis Audubon Photography Section Meeting, Clayton Federal and Loan Association Auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves. Critique of members' slides by Martin Schweig.

February 3 Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Lower Meramec Committee Meeting, 617 Marcel Drive, Manchester, Mo. Chairman: Judy Woltjen, 227-6398.

February 6 Friday 8:15 P.M. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY WILDLIFE FILM, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. Steve Maslowski will present "Wildlife by Day and by Night".

February 8 Sunday Sierra Club one-day hike to the Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge. Bring Binoculars in case eagles are sighted. Leader: John Stade, 524-3322

February 10 Tuesday 8:00 P.M. WGNSS Botany Group Meeting. Webster Groves Trust Company meeting room, Lockwood and Gore Avenues.

February 13 Friday 8:00 P.M. WGNSS Indoor Nature Adventure St. Louis County Library, Lindbergh just south of Clayton Road.

February 14 Saturday Eagle Count. See front page article of this Bulletin

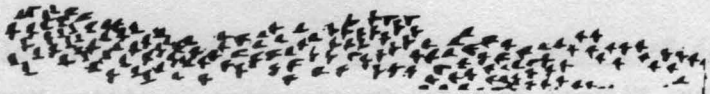
February 14 Saturday Valentine Day Moonlight Float on the Meramec River. Leader: Dave Gildehaus, 961-3478.

February 21 Saturday Joint Eastern Missouri/ Piasa Palisades Sierra Club Dinner Pere Marquette State Park. Speaker: Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. To make reservations (deadline February 10), send check for \$3.95 to Linda Pryor, 4603 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. 63108. Phone: 361-3696

February 28 Saturday 8:00 A.M. WGNSS Ornithology Field Trip to Old Shop Lake. Meet at Alton Dam, Missouri side.

March 2 Tuesday 7:45 P.M. St. Louis Audubon Photography Section Meeting, Clayton-Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves. Speaker: Herbert Weitman, Director of the Washington University Photography Service and Official Photographer for the St. Louis Football Cardinals.

March 14 Sunday 10:00 A.M. St. Louis Audubon Society Photography Walk Washington State Park, 12 miles south of De Soto on Highway 21.



SAVE THE DATE

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER
Monday, May 24 Sesquicentennial Room

